

Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated Tuesday, 25 April 2006

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- What is the status of watering restrictions in Boulder?
- Why? How was this decision reached?
- What are the recommended watering guidelines?
- How can I tell if my lawn needs watering?
- What's the best time to water my trees?
- Are our bills being looked at for usage?
- Are low water users going to get a rebate or refund?
- Will we be given refund incentives for Xeriscaping and planting low water requirement type grasses?
- Are we allowed to wash our cars?
- What is the city of Boulder doing about car washes that don't recycle water?
- Where can I get more information?

What is the status of watering restrictions in Boulder?

The city has declared that there will be no water restrictions this summer; however, the community is strongly encouraged to continue water conservation efforts that have successfully kept the city's water storage at a safe level since 2003.

[<Back to Top>](#)

Why? How was this decision reached?

The city cited its water storage levels and high-elevation snowpack of 104% of average in the Boulder Creek watershed as reasons for not declaring a drought. This year's May water storage levels are about the same as this time last year, and thanks to recent storms, the Boulder Creek watershed snowpack readings are almost 20 percent higher than in May 2004. Boulder Creek reservoirs are anticipated to fill and spill in late May or early June.

[<Back to Top>](#)

What are the recommended watering guidelines?

The city recommends using water wisely by sticking to the following watering guidelines:

- Water your lawn in the evenings or early mornings, after 6 p.m. or before 10 a.m.
- Lawn watering - every three days. Your lawn doesn't need more than this.
- Do not overwater. Do not water when it is raining nor when the soil is already wet.
- Trees, shrubs and vegetable gardens can be watered more effectively with a hand-held hose or low-volume non-spray irrigation, after 6 p.m. or before 10 a.m.
- Check your sprinkler system and make sure it is working properly and that you are only watering landscaping and not the surrounding areas like streets or sidewalks.
- Sprinkler water recommendations

[<Back to Top>](#)

How can I tell if my lawn needs watering?

Footprints in the grass that don't spring back quickly and a grey-green, rather than a fresh green, color to the grass indicate that your lawn needs watering.

[<Back to Top>](#)

What's the best time to water my trees?

In addition to the water your tree receives when you water your lawn, give trees an additional deep watering a minimum of once a month and up to once a week (after 6 p.m. or before 10 a.m.).

[<Back to Top>](#)

Are our bills being looked at for usage?

No. The city does not actively monitor your bills for water use levels or to enforce your water-saving efforts. Your bill reflects your water usage and will continue to. This may be useful information for you.

[<Back to Top>](#)

Are low water users going to get a rebate or refund?

No; however, their water bill will be lower, so they do realize a savings.

[<Back to Top>](#)

Will we be given refund incentives for Xeriscaping and planting low water requirements type grasses?

The city Water Conservation Program, 303-413-7407, sponsors free Xeriscape seminars for residents each spring. In addition, it sponsors one-on-one landscape consultation sessions and conservation education through the Boulder Energy Conservation Center.

Rebate Program - Call 303-413-7407 for an application or view online for information/application:

- Turf Type Buffalo Grass - rebate up to \$250
- High Efficiency Clothes Washers - rebate of \$75
- Drip Irrigation Systems - rebate up to \$250
- Sprinkler Controllers - rebate up to \$200
- Irrigation Audits for Large Landscapes - rebate up to \$200

[<Back to Top>](#)

Are we allowed to wash our cars?

Vehicles may be washed any time. We recommend using a bucket or a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle. Persons are encouraged to park vehicles on their lawns while washing but remove immediately after.

[<Back to Top>](#)

What is the city of Boulder doing about car washes that don't recycle water?

The city is working with the car-washing industry to determine ways to reduce water use.

[<Back to Top>](#)

Where can I get more information?

Weekly updates will be sent to the public and posted on www.bouldersaveswater.net measuring water use and comparing it to the water use goal. Information and tips on indoor and outdoor water conservation are also available on the Web site.

[<Back to Top>](#)